

years before,
at the same motel,
three cops were shot dead
as they had tried
to serve an arrest warrant
on a woman accused of writing
bad checks.

This stretch
of Michigan Avenue between
Beech-Daly and Merriman Roads
is a violent and deadly
hell-hole populated by gangs,
pimps and hookers,
crazies, and the
disenfranchised.

I look
at the Arab man
with his baseball bat,
I see his angry face,
and then I look at
the people in the cars
around me. None
of them look at the Arab
or the black man.

They look
straight ahead.
The religious among them,
I think, pray that they won't
get a flat tire
along this stretch of
Michigan Avenue.

If they do,
I figure,
they will
drive home
on the
rim.

— Kurt Nimmo

Canton MI

DEFINITION OF AN APPLE

Small lipstick sun,
moral mousetrap for Adam and Eve,
health grenade to keep the doctor at bay,
shiny brick used in supermarket pyramids,
low cast housing for worms.